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## Utah State Tax Commission

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Sandy dentist faces State tax evasion charges

A Sandy dentist has been charged with several felony tax counts after failing to pay state income taxes on more than \$1.1 million.

Benjamin Lee Gilstrap, 57, faces tax evasion and racketeering charges following an investigation by the Utah State Tax Commission Criminal Investigation Unit. Charges were filed in 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court March 15.

Investigators claim Gilstrap received more than \$1.1 million of income between 2003 and 2007; however, he refused to file legitimate tax returns and pay any state income taxes. Gilstrap also generated false W-2 forms during that period, the state alleges.

Gilstrap owes the State of Utah \$200,000 in taxes, criminal penalty and interest.

“All state income taxes are used to educate children in our public schools and students in our state colleges and universities,” said Charlie Roberts, spokesman for the Utah State Tax Commission.

“Our officers will continue to criminally prosecute those who fail to pay their fair share of state taxes,” he added. “In addition to hurting our teachers and children, failure to pay state income taxes places an unfair tax burden on Utah taxpayers who obey the law.”

This case will be prosecuted by the Utah Attorney General's Office.